

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 304

By McCord

A RESOLUTION to honor and applaud Head Coach Gary Rankin and the Alcoa High School football team on capturing the TSSAA Class 2A State Championship.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, led by Head Coach Gary Rankin, the Alcoa High School football team is one such commendable team that achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2006 season, establishing an impressive record of thirteen wins against only two losses and winning the BlueCross Bowl Class 2A State Championship Game; and

WHEREAS, the Alcoa Tornadoes rolled through the playoffs by prevailing over the powerhouse teams of Cumberland Gap (67-0), Christian Academy of Knoxville (50-7), Sweetwater (38-0), and Smith County (42-14) in a juggernautish drive to the state championship game in Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, the Tornadoes completed their phenomenal season by beating Goodpasture in the BlueCross Bowl by the score of 31-3, thereby capturing the team's third consecutive state football championship and their eighth overall; and

WHEREAS, Gary Rankin, in his first season as head coach of the Tornadoes, won his fifth state title, becoming the first coach in TSSAA history to win state titles with different schools; and

WHEREAS, this Herculean effort was led by the outstanding individual performances of Kyrus Laxter, named BlueCross Bowl Class 2A Offensive MVP, who led the way for the Tornadoes with six catches for 173 yards and two touchdowns; Bart Hicks, who earned the

BlueCross Bowl Class 2A Defensive MVP Award for the second year in a row in recognition for his leading the solid Alcoa defense with seventeen tackles; and Chris Shiverdecker, who racked up twenty-three carries, 148 yards, and two scores; and

WHEREAS, Alcoa's explosive offense amassed an incredible 669 points during its 15-game season, an average of 44.6 points per game, with 228 of those points scored in the playoffs; and

WHEREAS, Alcoa's stingy defense allowed only 142 points to be scored by opponents throughout the season, an average of only 9.46 points per game; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible a successful and memorable football season, but also surely point toward success in their future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, displaying great sportsmanship and outstanding character, the members of the Alcoa High School football team conducted themselves in a manner appropriate to the integrity of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee takes great pride in the tremendous accomplishments of those student athletes who have excelled both on the field and in the classroom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Head Coach Gary Rankin and the 2006 Alcoa High School football team on winning the 2006 TSSAA Class 2A State Football Title.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.